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A DECLARATION FROM THE HARMLESS & INNOCENT People of God, called, QUAKERS Against ALL Plotters and Fighters In the WORLD.

For the removing of the Ground of Jealousie and Suspition from both Magistrates and People in the Kingdome, concerning Wars and Fightings.

And also something in Answer to that Clause of the King's late Proclamation, which mentions the QUAKERS, to clear them from the Plot and Fighting, which therein is mentioned, and for the clearing their Innocency.

This Declaration *was given unto the* King, *upon the* 21*th day of the* 11*th moneth*, 1660.

OUR Principle is, and our Practices have always been to seek peace, and ensue it, and to follow after Righteousness, and the Knowledge of God, seeking the Good and Welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of All. We know that Wars and Fightings proceed from the Lusts of Men, as *Jam.* 4. 1, 2, 3. out of which Lusts the Lord hath redeemed us; and so out of the Occasion of War; the occasion of which War, and the

War it self (wherein envious Men, who are lovers of themselves more then lovers of God, Lust, Kill, and desire to have Mens Lives & Estates) ariseth from the Lust. All Bloody Principles and Practices we (as to our own particular) do utterly deny, with all outward War and Strife, and Fightings with Outward Weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever; and this is our Testimony to the whole World.

And whereas it is Objected;

But although you now say, *That you cannot Fight, nor take up Arms at all; yet if the Spirit do move you, then you will change your Principle, and then you will sell your Coat, and buy a Sword, & Fight for the Kingdom of Christ.*

Answ. As for this, we say to you, that Christ said to *Peter, Put up thy Sword in his place*; though he had said before, he that had no Sword, might sell his Coat and buy one (to the fulfilling of the Law and Scripture) yet after when he had bid him put it up, he said, *He that taketh the Sword, shall perish with the Sword*; and further, Christ said to *Pilate, Thinkest thou that I cannot now Pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more then twelve Legions of Angels?* and this might satisfie *Peter, Luk.* 22. 36. after he had put up his Sword, when he said to him, *He that took it, should perish by it*, which satisfieth us, *Mat.* 26. 51, 52, 53. and in the *Revelations* it's said, *He that kills with the Sword, shall perish with the Sword, and here is the Faith and the Patience of the Saints*; and so Christ's Kingdom is not of this World, therefore do not his Servants Fight, as he told *Pilate the Magistrate*, who crucified him; and did they not look upon Christ as a raiser of Sedition? and did not he say, *Forgive them?* But thus it is, that we are numbred amongst Transgressors, and numbred amongst Fighters, that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.

That Spirit of Christ by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as Evil, and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testifie to the World, that the Spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to Fight and War against any Man with outward Weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ, nor for the Kingdoms of this World.

First, Because the Kingdom of Christ, God will exalt according to his promise, and cause it to grow and flourish in Righteousness; *Not by Might, nor by Power (of outward Sword) but by my Spirit saith the Lord, Zech.*

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Zech. 4. 6. So those that use any Weapon to Fight for Christ, or for the establishing of his Kingdom or Government, both the **Spirit**, **Principle** and **Practice** in that, we deny.

Secondly, And as for the Kingdoms of this World, *we cannot covet them*, much less can we fight for them; but we do earnestly desire and wait, That (by the Word of God's Power, and its effectual Operation in the Hearts of Men) the Kingdoms of this World may become the Kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ, that he might Rule and Reign in Men, by his Spirit and Truth; that thereby all People out of all different Judgments and Professions, might be brought into Love and Unity with God, and one with another; and that they might all come to witness the Prophets words, who said, *Nation shall not lift up* Sword *against Nation, neither shall they learn* War *any more*, Isa. 2. 4. Mich. 4. 3.

So we, whom the Lord hath called into the obedience of his Truth, *have denyed Wars and Fightings*, and cannot again any more learn it. And this is a certain Testimony unto all the World, of the Truth of our Hearts in this particular, that as God perswadeth every Mans Heart to believe, so they may receive it; for we have not (as some others) gone about cunningly with devised Fables: Nor have we ever denyed in Practice, what we have professed in Principle, but in Sincerity and Truth, and by the Word of God have we laboured to be made manifest unto all Men, that both we and our ways might be witnessed in the Hearts of all People: And whereas all manner of Evil hath been falsly spoken of us, we hereby speak forth the plain Truth of our hearts, to take away the occasion of that offence, that so we being Innocent, may not suffer for other Mens Offences, nor be made a Prey upon by the wills of men, for that of which we were never Guilty; but in the uprightness of our hearts we may, under the Power ordained of God, for the punishment of Evil-doers, and for the praise of them that do well, live a peaceable and godly Life, in all Godliness and Honesty; for although we have always suffered, and do now more abundantly suffer, yet we know that it's for Righteousnes sake; *For our rejoycing is this, the Testimony of our Consciences, that in Simplicity and godly Sincerity, not with fleshly Wisdom, but by the Grace of God, we have had our Conversation in the World*, 2 Cor. 1. 12. Which for us is a Witness for the convincing of our Enemies. For this we can say to all the

World, we have wronged no Mans **Persons** or **Possessions**; we have used no **Force** nor **Violence** against any Man; we have been found in no **Plots**, nor guilty of **Sedition**; when we have been wronged, we have not sought to revenge our selves; we have not made resistance against Authority; but wherein we could not obey for Conscience sake, we have suffered even the most of any People in the Nation; we have been counted as Sheep for the Slaughter, Persecuted and Despised, Beaten, Stoned, Wounded, Stocked, Whipped, Imprisoned, Haled out of Synagogues, cast into Dungeons and Noisome Vaults, where many have died in Bonds, shut up from our Friends, denied needful Sustenance for many days together, with other the like Cruelties, and the cause of all this our Sufferings, is not for any Evil, but for things relating to the Worship of our God, and in obedience to his requirings of us; *For which Cause we shall freely give up our Bodies a Sacrifice, rather then disobey the Lord:* For we know, as the Lord hath kept us Innocent, so he will plead our Cause, when there is none in the Earth to plead it; So we, in obedience unto his Truth, do not love our Lives unto the Death, that we may do his will, and wrong no Man in our Generation, but seek the Good and Peace of all Men: And he that hath commanded us, *That we shall not Swear at all*, Mat. 5. 34. hath also commanded us, *That we shall not kill*, Mat. 5. So that we can neither kill Men, nor swear for nor against them. And this is both our Principle and Practice, and hath been from the Beginning; so that if we suffer, as suspected to take up Arms, or make War against any, it is without any ground from us, for it neither is, nor ever was in our Hearts since we owned the Truth of God, neither shall we ever do it, because it is contrary to the Spirit of Christ, his Doctrine, and the Practices of his Apostles, even contrary to him for whom we suffer all things, and endure all things.

And whereas Men come against us with *Clubs*, *Staves*, *Drawn Swords*, *Pistols cock't*, and do *beat*, *cut* and *abuse us*; yet we never resisted them, but to them our Hair, Backs, and Cheeks have been ready; but it is not an honour to Manhood nor Nobility, to run upon harmless People, who lift not up a Hand against them, with Arms and Weapons.

Therefore consider these things ye Men of Understanding: For Plotters, Raisers of Insurrections, Tumultuous Ones, and Fighters, running with Swords, Clubs, Staves and Pistols one against another;

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we ſay, theſe are of the World, and have their foundation from this Unrighteous World, from the foundation of which, the Lamb hath been ſlain, which Lamb hath redeemed us from this unrighteous World, and we are not of it, but are Heirs of a World in which there is no End, and of a Kingdom where no corruptible thing enters: And our Weapons are *Spiritual*, and not *Carnal*, yet *Mighty through God, to the pulling down of the Strong Holds of Sin and Satan*, who is Author of *Wars*, *Fighting*, *Murder*, and *Plots*; and our *Swords* are broken into *Plow ſhares*, and *Spears* into *Pruning-hooks*, as Propheſied of in *Micah* 4. Therefore we cannot learn War any more, neither riſe up againſt Nation or Kingdom with outward Weapons, though you have numbred us amongſt the Tranſgreſſors and Plotters, the Lord knows our Innocency herein, and will plead our Cauſe with all Men and People upon Earth, at the day of their Judgment, when all Men ſhall have a reward according to their Works.

Therefore in love we warn you for your Souls good, *not to wrong the Innocent*, nor the Babes of Chriſt, which he hath in his Hand, which he tenders as the Apple of his Eye; neither ſeek to deſtroy the Heritage of God, neither turn your Swords *backward*, upon ſuch as the Law was not made for, *i. e. the Righteous*, but for the Sinners and Tranſgreſſors, to keep them down. For thoſe are not the Peace-makers, neither the Lovers of Enemies; neither can they overcome Evil with Good, who wrong them that be Friends to You and All Men, and wiſh Your Good, and the good of all People on the Earth. If you Oppreſs us, as they did the Children of *Iſrael* in *Egypt*, and if you Oppreſs us as they did when *Chriſt* was Born, and as they did the Chriſtians in the Primitive Times, we can ſay, **The Lord forgive You**; and leave the Lord to deal with you, and not revenge our ſelves: And if you ſay, as the Council ſaid to *Peter* and *John*, *You muſt ſpeak no more in that Name*; and if you ſerve us as they ſerved the Three Children ſpoken of in *Daniel*; God is the ſame as ever he was, that lives for Ever and Ever, who hath the Innocent in his Arms.

Oh Friends! offend not the Lord and his *Little Ones*; neither afflict his People; but conſider, and be moderrate, and do not run haſtily into things; but mind, and conſider *Mercy*, *Juſtice* and *Judgment*; that is the way for you to proſper, and get the Favour of the Lord. Our Meetings were ſtopped and broken up in the dayes of *Oliver*, in pretence

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of Plotting against him, and in the days of the Parliament and Committee of Safety, we were looked upon as Plotters to bring in KING CHARLES; and now we are called Plotters against KING CHARLES. Oh that men should lose their Reason, and go contrary to their own conscience, knowing that we have suffered all things, and have been accounted Plotters all along, though we have declared against them both by word of mouth and Printing, and are clear from any such thing, though we have suffered all along because we would not take up carnal weapons to fight withal against any; and are thus made a pray upon, because we are the innocent Lambs of Christ, and cannot avenge our selves. These things are left upon your hearts to consider. But we are out of all those things, in the patience of the Saints, and we know, that as Christ said, *He that takes the Sword, shall perish with the Sword, Mat. 26. 52. Rev. 13. 10.*

This is given forth from the People called Quakers, *to satisfie the King and his Council, and all those that have any jealousie concerning Us, that all occasion of suspition may be taken away, and our Innocency cleared.*

Given forth under our Names, and in the behalf of the whole Body of the Elect People of God, who are called *Quakers*.

George Fox,	Gerrard Roberts,	Henry Fell,
Richard Hubberthorn,	John Bolton,	John Hind,
John Stubbs,	Leonard Fell,	John Furly, jun.
Francis Howgil,	Samuel Fisher,	Thomas Moor.

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THough we are numbred with **Plotters** in this late Proclamation, and put in the midst of them, and numbred amongst Transgressors, and so have been given up to all Rude Merciless Men, by which our Meetings are broken up, in which we Edified one another in our holy Faith, and prayed together to the Lord that lives forever, yet he is our pleader for us in this Day, the Lord saith, They that feared his Name, spoke often together, as in Malachy, which were as his Jewels: And for this Cause, and no Evil-doing, are we cast into Holes, Dungeons, Houses of Correction, Prisons, they sparing neither Old nor Young, Men nor Women, and just sold to all Nations, and made a Prey to all Nations, under pretence of being Plotters, so that all rude People run upon us to take Possession; for which we say, The Lord forgive them that have thus done to us, who doth, and will enable us to suffer; and never shall we lift up a Hand against any Man that doth thus use us: But that the Lord may have Mercy upon them, that they may consider what they have done: For how is it hardly possible for them to requite us, for the wrong they have done to us? Who to all Nations have sounded us abroad as Plotters, who were never found Plotters against any Power or Man upon the Earth, since we knew the Life and Power of Jesus Christ manifested in us, who hath redeemed us from the World, and all works of Darkness and Plotters that be in it, by which we know our Election before the World began. So we say, The Lord have Mercy upon our Enemies, and forgive them, for that they have done unto us.

Oh! do as you would be done by; and do unto all Men as you would have them do unto you, for this is but the Law and the Prophets.

And all Plots, Insurrections and Riotous Meetings we do deny, knowing them to be of the Devil and the Murtherer, which we in Christ which was before they were, triumph over them, and all Wars & Fightings with Carnal Weapons we do deny, who have the Sword of the Spirit, and all that wronged us, we leave them to the Lord; and this is to clear our Innocency from that Aspersion cast upon us, That we are Plotters.

Added

Added in the Reprinting.

Courteous Reader.

THis was our Teſtimony above Twenty Years ago, and ſince then we have not been found Acting contrary to it, nor never ſhall; for the Truth that is our Guide is unchangeable; and this is now Reprinted to the Men of this Age, many of whom were then Children, and doth ſtand as our certain Teſtimony againſt all Plotting and Fighting with Carnal Weapons; and if any by departing from the Truth ſhould do ſo, this is our Teſtimony in the Truth againſt them, and will ſtand over them, and the Truth will be clear of them.

LONDON, Reprinted by *John Bringhurſt*, at the Sign of the *Book* and *Three Black-Birds*, in *Leaden-Hall Mutton-Market*, 1684.